

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

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MATTHEW A. COLEMAN,

Plaintiff,

v.

GABRIEL NAJERA, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Case 2:23-cv-00096-MMD-VCF

ORDER

Pro se Plaintiff Matthew A. Coleman brings this civil-rights action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 to redress constitutional violations that he claims he suffered while incarcerated at Southern Desert Correctional Center. (ECF No. 1-1.) On January 26, 2023, the Court ordered Coleman to file a fully complete application to proceed *in forma pauperis* or pay the full \$402 filing fee on or before March 27, 2023. (ECF No. 3.) The Court warned Coleman that the action could be dismissed if he failed to timely comply with the order. (*Id.* at 2.) That deadline expired and Coleman did not apply to proceed *in forma pauperis*, pay the required filing fee, or otherwise respond.

District courts have the inherent power to control their dockets and “[i]n the exercise of that power, they may impose sanctions including, where appropriate . . . dismissal” of a case. *Thompson v. Hous. Auth. of City of L.A.*, 782 F.2d 829, 831 (9th Cir. 1986). A court may dismiss an action based on a party’s failure to obey a court order or comply with local rules. See *Carey v. King*, 856 F.2d 1439, 1440-41 (9th Cir. 1988) (affirming dismissal for failure to comply with local rule requiring *pro se* plaintiffs to keep court apprised of address); *Malone v. U.S. Postal Serv.*, 833 F.2d 128, 130 (9th Cir. 1987) (dismissal for failure to comply with court order). In determining whether to dismiss an action on one of these grounds, the Court must consider: (1) the public’s interest in the

1 expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the Court's need to manage its docket; (3) the risk
2 of prejudice to Defendants; (4) the public policy favoring disposition of cases on their
3 merits; and (5) the availability of less drastic alternatives. *See In re Phenylpropanolamine*
4 *Prod. Liab. Litig.*, 460 F.3d 1217, 1226 (9th Cir. 2006) (quoting *Malone*, 833 F.2d at 130).

5 The first two factors, the public's interest in expeditiously resolving this litigation
6 and the Court's interest in managing its docket, weigh in favor of dismissal of Coleman's
7 claims. The third factor, risk of prejudice to Defendants, also weighs in favor of dismissal
8 because a presumption of injury arises from the occurrence of unreasonable delay in filing
9 a pleading ordered by the court or prosecuting an action. *See Anderson v. Air West*, 542
10 F.2d 522, 524 (9th Cir. 1976). The fourth factor—the public policy favoring disposition of
11 cases on their merits—is greatly outweighed by the factors favoring dismissal.

12 The fifth factor requires the Court to consider whether less drastic alternatives can
13 be used to correct the party's failure that brought about the Court's need to consider
14 dismissal. *See Yourish v. Cal. Amplifier*, 191 F.3d 983, 992 (9th Cir. 1999) (explaining
15 that considering less drastic alternatives *before* the party has disobeyed a court order
16 does not satisfy this factor); *accord Pagtalunan v. Galaza*, 291 F.3d 639, 643 & n.4 (9th
17 Cir. 2002). Courts "need not exhaust every sanction short of dismissal before finally
18 dismissing a case, but must explore possible and meaningful alternatives." *Henderson v.*
19 *Duncan*, 779 F.2d 1421, 1424 (9th Cir. 1986). Because the Court cannot operate without
20 collecting reasonable fees, and litigation cannot progress without a plaintiff's compliance
21 with court orders, the only alternative is to enter a second order setting another deadline.
22 But the reality of repeating an ignored order is that it often only delays the inevitable and
23 squanders the Court's finite resources. The circumstances here do not indicate that this
24 case will be an exception because there is no showing that Coleman needs additional
25 time or evidence that he did not receive the Court's order. Setting a second deadline is
26 not a meaningful alternative in these circumstances. So the fifth factor favors dismissal.

27 Having thoroughly considered these dismissal factors, the Court finds that they
28 weigh in favor of dismissal.

1 It is therefore ordered that this action is dismissed without prejudice based on
2 Coleman's failure to file a fully complete application to proceed *in forma pauperis* or pay
3 the full \$402 filing fee in compliance with the Court's January 26, 2023, order.

4 The Clerk of Court is directed to enter judgment accordingly and close this case.
5 No other documents may be filed in this now-closed case. If Coleman wishes to pursue
6 his claims, he must file a complaint in a new case.

7 DATED THIS 11th Day of April 2023.

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11 MIRANDA M. DU
12 CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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